



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
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August 30, 2016

The Honorable Arlan Meekhof  
Majority Leader  
Michigan State Senate  
S-106 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Meekhof:

I write today on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving to share our support for several bills regarding autonomous vehicles.

Currently there are four bills pending in the Senate, SB 995, SB 996, SB 997, and SB 998, which are referred to as the Michigan Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Senate bill package. Together, these four bills create a competitive advantage for Michigan to be at the forefront of the next major transition in the automotive industry and could serve as a national model for other states to emulate. This legislation would provide the proper regulatory approach and tools to introduce autonomous vehicles and technologies in a safe and publicly accepted manner – and allow Michigan, the birthplace of the automotive industry, to redefine the future of transportation.

MADD supports future technologies like autonomous vehicles because they could one day stop drunk drivers from operating vehicles. Autonomous driving cars cannot happen soon enough. Traffic crashes cause over 30,000 deaths each year. Most of these are caused by human error.

Drunk driving continues to be a leading cause of death on the highways. In 2015, 10,265 people died in drunk driving crashes nationwide. In Michigan, 267 people died in DUI crashes in 2015 which was a 26 percent increase over 2014. Clearly we need to do more.

Nationwide autonomous vehicles have the promise to separate the drunk driver from driving the vehicle. Because so much innovation is occurring in Michigan, I urge your support of this legislative package.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your leadership in highway safety.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

J.T. Griffin  
Chief Government Affairs Officer, MADD